

## **Medicare Rx Update: October 7, 2005**

### **So, you want to know how you can assist Medicare beneficiaries in making the right choice of drug plan?**

CMS has created a variety of training materials and tools to help you assist Medicare beneficiaries with enrollment decisions. These materials provide the necessary background you will need to answer the multitude of questions that are sure to be asked.

#### **Comprehensive Resource Kit**

(Can be downloaded from the CMS website and ordered online.)

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/tools/materials/medicaretraining/hihresourcekit/default.asp>

- Focus on "understanding, deciding, choosing, and joining"
- Includes a "lesson plan" for anyone who will be helping people with Medicare understand the new Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage
  - Existing Publications
  - Worksheet for the decision process
  - Instructions for helping with the decision process and enrollment in a plan
  - CD training of the Prescription Drug Plan Finder Tool
  - CD with extensive additional resources, links to online resources, and contents of the kit
  - CD with all regional versions of the Medicare & You handbook

#### **Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Toolkit**

(Can be downloaded from the CMS website and ordered online.)

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/tools/materials/medicaretraining/MPDCOutreachkit.asp>

- Designed for partners, traditional and new, and community level organizations
- Minimal approach - not intimidating for those new to Medicare
- Quick Start - design concept based on software products - "just read this one folder to get started"
- Designed to be easily referenced
- Suitable for all partners
- Materials needed to conduct outreach

#### **Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder Training Demonstration**

(Will be available online and on CD by mid-October 2005.)

<http://media.cms.hhs.gov/>

- Two versions are being developed (short and more in-depth)
- Walks users through the process of using the Prescription Drug Plan Finder Tool to help people with Medicare understand, decide, choose, and join

#### **Web Casts**

(Available online and stored for viewing through May 2006.)

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/news/mma/webcasts.asp>

- Weekly series that began September 28, 2005
- Topics include:
  - Overview of Prescription Drug Coverage
  - Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Enrollment Process and the "Help is Here" Resource Kit

- Live "Ask the Experts" sessions

### **Satellite Broadcast**

(Scheduled to air on October 14, 2005.)

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/news/mma/webcasts.asp>

- Partners can view the broadcasts from download sites
- Focus on the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder Tool and assistance with the enrollment process

### **Online Training Modules**

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/tools/materials/medicaretraining/default.htm>

- Used in face-to-face workshops
- Designed in a Train-the-Trainer format
- Continuously updated

### **National Workshops**

<https://cmsworkshops.net/>

- Conducted around the nation in collaboration with CMS regional offices
- One and one half-day seminars
- Face-to-face training that is more in-depth than other formats
- Offers practical enrollment information and exercises to reinforce skills

**Remember, enrollment begins November 15th...but you may help beneficiaries with questions now!**